

blue. Axis 1 inch 5 lines, diam. 14 lines. This bird is very common hereabouts.

11. *POLIOSPIZA GULARIS*. (Streaky-headed Seed-eater.)

On October 25th, 1900, I found a nest of this species, which is fairly plentiful here, built in a plum-tree in our garden, about 4 feet above the ground. It was cup-shaped, and constructed of the stems of a very common plant, and lined with the flaxen tops of flowering grasses. It contained three eggs of a very light bluish white, sprinkled with dark and purplish-brown dots, chiefly at the larger end. Axis nearly $13\frac{1}{2}$ lines, diam. $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Modderfontein,

December 16th, 1900.

XVIII.—*Notes on the Cassowaries of the Dresden Museum.*

By Dr. A. B. MEYER.

MR. ROTHSCHILD'S valuable monograph of the genus *Casuaris* (Tr. Z. S. xv. pp. 109–148, pls. xxii.–xli., 1900) has enabled me to revise the determination of the specimens in the Dresden Museum, and I beg leave to offer a few remarks upon them.

(1) The Museum received, in the year 1899, a specimen shot on the hills behind Bongu, at the back of Constantinhafen, in Astrolabe Bay, German New Guinea, that is, on the northern slopes of the Finisterre Mountains. This specimen proves to belong to *C. picticollis hecki* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 144, pl. xxxvii.), known till now only from an example living in the Zoological Garden of Berlin, with the habitat "German New Guinea." The Dresden specimen gives the first exact locality for this species within a larger range, which we shall ascertain correctly later.

(2) In the year 1883 the Museum procured an example from "Port Moresby," British New Guinea, designated as *C. beccarii* Scl. (or *C. sclateri* Salv.). This now proves to be *C. casuaris intensus* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 121, pl. xxvii.),

described from living specimens at Tring, "*Habitat* unknown." Even if "Port Moresby" itself should not be the exact locality where this individual was shot, we may infer that it was obtained not far off. The future will give us the more exact information necessary.

(3) Three specimens of *C. bennetti* Gould (*l. c.* p. 145, pl. xxxix.) from New Britain in our collection do not agree as to the shape of the casque with Mr. Rothschild's plate, nor with his description of the casque of *C. bennetti maculatus* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 148, habitat unknown). These three specimens are from the Valley of Warangoi, in the Gazelle Peninsula—that is, to the south of Herbertshöhe, round Cape Wuatta, about where on the maps "Putput Harbour" is indicated. They agree well among themselves. I suppose that Mr. Rothschild's representation of the casque of this species (pl. xxxix.) does not exhibit all the phases, as it appears very improbable that the specimens before me can belong to another subspecies, the more so as the casque of a skeleton in the Museum, prepared from an example received from a zoological garden, also agrees with the three above-mentioned birds.

(4) There is in the Dresden Museum, recently procured, a chick from Sattelberg, in the north of Huon Gulf, which may belong to *C. uniappendiculatus aurantiacus* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 136, pl. xxxii.), or to *C. pcticollis hecki* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 144, pl. xxxvii.), both known at present only from specimens in the Berlin Zoological Garden, with the habitat "German New Guinea." The chick has not yet been described, but I abstain from doing this because these *pulli* cannot be discriminated by mere description. It might possibly belong to some other species.

(5) Together with a specimen of *Casuaris lorie* Rothsch. (*l. c.* p. 142, pl. xxxviii.), from the same locality and the same collector as Mr. Rothschild's example, the Dresden Museum has quite recently received a chick and an egg of that species. Though, as already remarked, it is of not much use to describe a chick of any form of *Casuaris*, on account of the great general resemblance, I may mention that ours

has five distinct broad black stripes on the upperside, and that the tawny-coloured stripes between them are narrower than the black.

(6) I described, in the year 1884 (Z. ges. Orn. i. p. 296, sp. 82), an egg of a *Casuaris* from Aru, which Mr. Rothschild has designated, with a query, as that of either *C. casuaris beccarii* ScL. (p. 117), from Vokan, or of *C. bicarunculatus* ScL. (p. 130), from Wammer and Kabroor. Since my description was published, I have been able to enquire of the collector as to the exact locality whence the specimen came, and have been told that it was from Ureiuning, on the Wanumbay River. It must therefore belong to the latter species.

(7) I cannot agree with Mr. Rothschild as to the locality of *Mansinam* (p. 141). The village on the mainland is called *Manseiman*, not to be confounded with *Mansinam* on the island of Manaswari, *Manseiman* being up the mountain—cf. my 'Neu-Guinea Tagebuch,' pp. 11 & 15, and map (1875). This, however, is of little consequence.

So far as I know, the splendid series of Cassowaries in the Turati Collection, now in the Museum of Milan, has not yet been sufficiently studied. These specimens, with their localities, would perhaps add something to our knowledge of the group, which is, even after Mr. Rothschild's admirable endeavours, far from being complete.

Royal Zoological Museum, Dresden,
January 28th, 1901.

XIX.—*On the Habits and Haunts of the Noio or Hawaiian Noddy Tern.* By H. W. HENSHAW.

UPON much of the windward side of the Island of Hawaii the coast is bold and rugged; nor has it been entirely in vain that the north-east trades have essayed their might against the obdurate volcanic rock for centuries, as witness the many little bays and recesses which have been formed.

This rugged, lonely, surf-streaked coast is the haunt of the Noio (*Anous hawaiiensis*), which species, the Tropic-bird,